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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/562,439

05/18/2006

Keitaro Ado

R2184.0473/P473

3568

24998 7590 02/25/2011

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP
1825 EYE STREET NW
Washington, DC 20006-5403

EXAMINER

TRAIL, ALLYSON NEEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2876

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/25/2011

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/562,439	Applicant(s) ADO, KEITARO	
	Examiner ALLYSON N. TRAIL	Art Unit 2876	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/9/2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 December 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment filed December 9, 2010.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 1-5 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yu et al (2003/0233507), hereinafter Yu and Le et al (8,075,793), hereinafter Le.

With respect to claims 1 and 12, Yu teaches in paragraphs 0007, 0016, 0017, and figure 1, a card access apparatus that is adapted to be connected to a plurality of types of cards. Specifically Yu provides, “an electronic card with multiple interfaces.” Paragraph 0017 teaches the apparatus including a plurality of connection points (CF interface connection port 11 and USB interface connection port 14). The points are adapted for the respective types of cards (specifically a CF memory card or a USB memory card – paragraph 0017). Paragraphs 0016-0017 further disclose a plurality of signal buses that connect the connection points to a card control unit (card loading detection device 13). It is further disclosed that when one type of the types of cards is connected to one of the connection points adapted for the one type of the types of cards, at least one of the signal buses connected to at least one of the connection points adapted for at least one other type of the types of cards is electrically isolated

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from the at least one of the connection points. Specifically Yu discloses that when the CF interface is active; i.e., one type of the types of cards, specifically a CF card, is connected to one of the connection points (CF card connection point) adapted for the one type of the types of cards (CF card), the USB signal bus (signal that flows through switches 15 and 16), which is connected to at least one of the connections points adapted for at least one other type of the types of cards (USB connection point), is electrically isolated from the USB connection point. When the CF interface connection port 11 is connected to the PC 19, the card loading detection device 13 detects the connection status and outputs a control signal to turn off the first and second switch devices 15 and 16, so as to isolate the USB interface connection port 14 from the interface signal converter 17 and the CF interface connection ports 11, thereby preventing the USB signals from interfering with the CF interface 12, allowing accurate data transfer to/from the CF memory 18.

With respect to claims 2, 3, 8, and 9, Yu discloses in paragraph 0017 an isolator that is configured to electrically isolate the at least one of the signal buses connected to the at least one of the connection points adapted for the at least one other type of the types of cards from the at least one of the connection points. Paragraph 0008 discusses that when the one type of the types of cards is not connected to the one of the connection points adapted for the one type of the types of cards, the isolator is arranged to be in an open state. Yu further discloses in paragraph 0008 that when the one type of the types of cards is connected to the one of the connection points adapted for the one type of the types of cards, the isolator is arranged to be in a closed state.

With respect to claims 4 and 5, Yu discloses in paragraph 0017 the isolator realizes a separate circuit with respect to the card control unit. Specifically, the card loading detection device 13, detects the connection status and outputs a control signal to turn off the first and second switch devices 15 and 16, so as to isolate the USB interface connection port 14 from the interface signal converter 17 and the CF interface connection ports 11. Paragraph 0019 and figure 2 disclose the circuit of the card loading detection device 13.

With respect to claims 10 and 11, refer to Yu's paragraph 0019.

Yu's teachings above fail to teach a single slot adapted to accommodate the plurality of types of cards as well as an opening part having connectors that can handle the plurality of cards.

With respect to claims 1 and 12, Le discusses in column 7, lines 7-28, an apparatus that is capable of receiving a number of different types of memory cards using a single slot. The described apparatus supports the mechanical and electrical interfaces necessary for receiving a memory card of a variety of different formalisms using a number of different digital devices and then transferring the data to a computing device using a single adapter. Additionally, figure 2 illustrates an adapter 10, which includes a single slot 13 for receiving a variety of different types of flash memory cards 8. Lastly, Le discloses in column 3, line 65 – column 4, line 3, that unlike some conventional adapters that support different types of flash memory cards by making use of multiple slots, the adapter 10 has a single slot 13 that is structured to prevent a user from incorrectly inserting flash memory cards 8.

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In view of Le's teachings, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the single slot adapter taught by Le as the card acceptor in the card access apparatus taught by Yu. One would be motivated to use a single adaptable slot in order to save space by only needing one slot instead of multiple slots and as is disclosed by Le, having only one slot prevents a user from incorrectly inserting flash memory cards.

4. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yu in combination with Le and in further view of Hirai et al (2002/0046877), hereinafter Hirai.

Yu's teachings in combination with the teachings of Le are discussed above. Additionally with respect to claims 6 and 7, refer to Yu's paragraph 0019.

The combination however fails to specifically teach one of the types of cards including a metal plate having an insulator coating applied thereon.

With respect to claim 6, Hirai discloses in claim 4 that the CF card includes a cover plate having an insulating film applied to its inner metal surface.

In view of Hirai's teachings, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a CF card taught by Yu and include a metal plate having an insulator coating as is taught by Hirai. The CF card disclosed by Hirai is a conventional card and therefore one would be motivated to use such a card as it is widely available and inexpensive.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed December 9, 2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. It is believed that Yu clearly teaches the limitation including wherein when one type of the types of cards is inserted in the slot and connected to one of the connection points adapted for the one type of the types of cards, at least one of the signal buses connected to at least one of the connection points adapted for at least one other type of the types of cards is electrically isolated from the at least one of the connection points. The rejection above has only been modified to more clearly point out Yu's teachings with regards to the pending claims.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to *Allyson N. Trail* whose telephone number is (571) 272-

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2406. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 7:30AM to 4:00PM Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee, can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [**allyson.trail@uspto.gov**].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

/Allyson N. Trail/
Allyson N. Trail
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2876

February 24, 2011